NEWS SCOPE

A newsletter for designers, collectors and lovers of kaleidoscopes

Vol. 23 No. 2
Spring 2008

All About the BKS Website

The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society website appeared live in November, 2000. Since that time, it has become one of the most comprehensive sources of kaleidoscope related information on the Internet. For new members and those who haven't visited the site recently, here's a brief summary of the information to be found on the website.

• There's a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page which answers many common questions regarding kaleidoscopes, their history, materials, collecting tips, etc.

• A Kaleidoscope History page gives an overview of the kaleidoscope since its invention in 1817. The articles center upon the two most influential figures in kaleidoscope history, Sir David Brewster and Charles Bush.

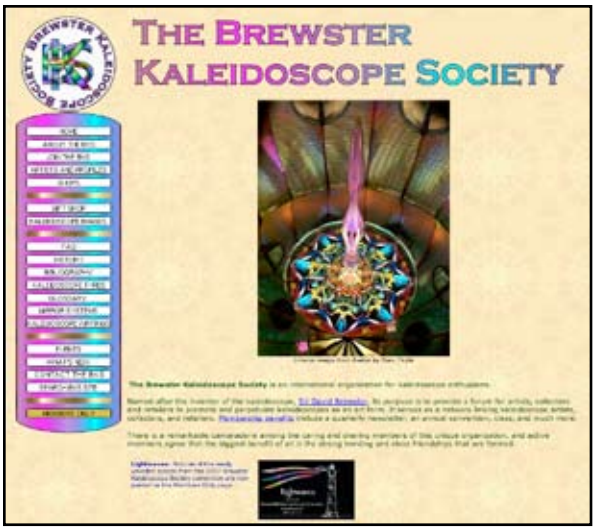
• An excellent explanation of mirror systems, written by Charles Karadimos, explains the concepts of kaleidoscopic imagery.

• All artists who are currently members of the BKS are listed on the Artists and Profiles page, along with their website information. Additionally, there are several in-depth artist profiles on the page, with profiles continually being added.

• A list of kaleidoscope galleries is available, sorted by state, along with their email and website information. A clickable interactive map lets you quickly see what galleries are located in a particular state (or country).

• An overview of kaleidoscope types gives descriptions of the most common styles of kaleidoscopes. A glossary and bibliography give additional information to those first becoming acquainted with kaleidoscopes.

• There's a collection of varied kaleidoscope related writings, ranging from collecting to philosophical musings to the obituary of Sir David Brewster himself.



• And of course, there's general information about the BKS, how to contact the directors, how to join the BKS, a What's New page containing information on current happenings, and an events page.

• The Members Only section of the BKS website is a password protected web page which contains a wealth of information as a benefit for BKS members only. Some of the offerings include announcements and current items involving the BKS, full color photos of kaleidoscopes unveiled at the past and previous BKS conventions, full color editions of the quarterly NewsScope newsletter available for downloading, advertising information, classified ads for buying and selling kaleidoscopes, and various kaleidoscope-related links. The current username and password required to access the Members Only section is given inside each edition of NewsScope.

Exciting plans are in progress for additional website pages, including artist tips, detailed kaleidoscope descriptions, collector advice, and much more. So if you haven't visited the BKS website recently, you might be surprised at all of the information you can find there. www.brewstersociety.com

To give you an idea of the popularity of the website, in the week from February 29 to March 6, 2008 almost 2,000 people visited with over 7,000 page views. Pretty good for just one week.

The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society Mission Statement:
The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society is a unique organization which provides a forum for artists, collectors, and retailers to promote and perpetuate kaleidoscopes as an art form.

Message from the Directors

Organizations consist of people. The fundamental substance of any organization is the energy of its people. During our reorganization we have been busy figuring out all the logistics of how this change is going to come about. We are looking at the primary challenges our organization faces and the resources we need to meet these challenges. This is important work but what we need is already present, a supportive membership. We invite you to tell us your thoughts and ideas on how the Brewster Kaleidoscope Society can meet your needs. Read Bob Sabath's report below on our transition work.

You can contact the board email at **admin08@brewstersociety.com.** We want to hear from you. We can't complete this reorganization without your help.

"It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power." *Alan Cohen*

• • • Attention Members • • •

If you have been receiving emails from us over the last few months, great.

If you have not, then that means we do not have a current email address for you. Please email admin@brewstersociety.com with the current information. Special messages are sent throughout the year by email only.

Message from the New Board

The BKS steering committee has been active for a month and is beginning the transition of our Society to the next level. We each have reviewed the member survey data and our financials and have shared our opinions on the important issues BKS faces. We will soon meet to act on several important areas:

- Sharing our understanding of our history and resources
- Understanding and responding to our members, as individuals and as constituencies
- Setting goals, targets and actions to satisfy our membership and assure long term stability of the Society
- Taking actions in a timely manner, to maintain the momentum of the Society

Specifically, we intend to describe our organizational structure, lay out our priorities, set plans for our next Convention, and recommend actions to assure BKS growth and member satisfaction. We especially appreciate your patience, and eagerly solicit your ideas, complaints, suggestions and efforts.

The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society
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NEW PASSWORD

To access the Members Only Section on www.brewstersociety.com
Username: bksmember
Password: 2008BKS

Ad Space Available

We invite you to take advantage of the expanding newsletter to:

- *Extend your marketing*
- *Target a select audience*
- *Promote your artwork*
- *Promote your gallery or store*

For more information contact:
Charles Karadimos
301-253-5789 or
Karascopes@aol.com
Ad rate sheet available at
www.brewstersociety.com/join.html

Cozy's Column

Looking Ahead ...

My congratulations to the new governing board of the BKS. I am very pleased with the direction that the organization I founded in 1986 is taking, and my sincere wish is for a fluid transition. I feel sure this will be accomplished in a smooth and efficient manner. Good luck and happy colors!

Looking Back ...

In a reminiscent mood, I looked back at the Spring 1988 issue of the NewsScope. The front page announced a spring meeting of the Brewster Society in Nyack, New York. It doesn't seem possible that was 20 years ago. Shell and Jan Haber were owners of Hands of the Craftsman, one of the very first shops to feature kaleidoscopes, and Jan was the artist responsible for all the clever illustrations in the newsletters, as well as those in my early books, and the poster for Strathmore's first exhibition. I understand that the Habers maintain a website: www.kaleidoscopesusa.com and continue to sell scopes in Nyack.

An article on page 5 of the same NewsScope, (Vol. 3 #1) entitled "Fireburst" - a well-kept secret unveiled" also brought back a rush of memories. Fireburst was my original name for the scope that was eventually called the Illusion. Rather than try to explain the story, I am going to reprint the short article.

Well, I just can't wait any longer to tell you the most exciting scope secret in the world! I've discovered what I (and a few others who have seen it) believe to be the most kaleidoscopically scintillescent phenomena to be experienced anywhere by anyone at any price! I've decided each Brewster member deserves to see this dazzling, star-studded meteoric glow-works display for himself.

Here is the secret simple formula for the Fireburst. Take one of Marti Freund's almost flat (15 degrees) 2-mirror teleidoscopes and point it toward (actually, place it right against) a 3-foot Galaxy Space Tube by Wildewood Creative Products – and that's all you do. The rest just happens as luminescent fireworks spiral and explode in a whirling cascade of wonder.

If you can't locate the two necessary instruments at your favorite scope shop, please contact the Brewster Society. No other teleidoscope, nor any other viewing object afford the same stunning startling effects.

This excessively lavish account of my invention was one of the reasons Wildewood could not secure a copyright for the Illusion when they finally got around to producing it in 1990 . For a couple of years the Illusion was the world's largest and fastest selling kaleidoscope and spawned more imitations than any other scope. But the cheap foreign imitations together with the lawsuit brought by a disgruntled scientist who claimed a patent infringement caused Wildewood to terminate production. Even though Wildewood won the case on all counts, it was a very costly lawsuit for Mark Eilrich and myself. For more about the lawsuit, see Vol. 7 #4 (Winter 92-93).

Other features in the Spring 88 NewsScope included an article on Polarized Light Paintings by Austine Wood Comarow, a sound-activated electronic kaleidoscope by Dr. Don Anderson, and Computerized Kaleido Doodles. Notable new scopes reviewed were Willie Stevenson's polyangular model (the first since Brewster's), Kaleido-Kastle by Anneleise and Gordon Redmond, and The Geoscope by Prism Design.

Kaleidoscope classes by R. Scott Cole were announced, and Scott is still teaching scope artistry to interested would-be scope designers. Congratulations Scott, and keep up the good work!

(continued on page 4)

Cozy's Column

(continued from page 3)

But not all my scope activities are linked to the past. I have been asked to speak at an arts banquet in April, for the National League of American Pen Women's convention in Alexandria, Virginia. This organization, with branches in all 50 states, is composed of writers, artists, and music composers. I am happy for the opportunity to remind this artistic audience that kaleidoscopes have become an important art form. Too many people still think of scopes as toys and are unaware of the recent renaissance . The title of my presentation is "Kaleidoscopes: Art and Heart." I am closing with Linda Montgomery's beautiful poem "Life is a Kaleidoscope:"

Changing patterns, changing concepts, changing colors.
The kaleidoscope of my being is shifting.

New life is emerging
Like a growing seed pushing up through the soil.
There is struggle, change, transformation.
I am called to let go of the past.
I am drawn into the newness of the moment,
To seek the beauty of each kaleidoscopic pattern,
To acknowledge the gift of each experience,
And to let it go.

Bits of colored glass are rearranging themselves
And I glimpse the perfection of symmetry.
I cannot preserve the pattern.
No matter how carefully I put down the kaleidoscope,
The pattern changes.
What is it that makes me want time to stand still?
I fear that the gold I hold in my hand will turn to sand,
That the road I am following will find its end.

I am reminded of God's loving presence.
If I live in the consciousness of Love,
Each moment can be more beautiful than the last.
Life then becomes a collection of precious gems,
No bits and pieces of colored glass.
I feel the deep blue peace of sapphires,
The passion of rubies,
The healing green of emeralds.

When I'm lost and confused,
It's helpful to remember–
My life is a kaleidoscope
Of changing thoughts and patterns,
Evolving into a multi-faceted perspective.
Then the colored glass
Becomes precious gems of joy and truth,
Harmony and balance,
Rearranging themselves
So I can stretch and expand and reach for the Light.

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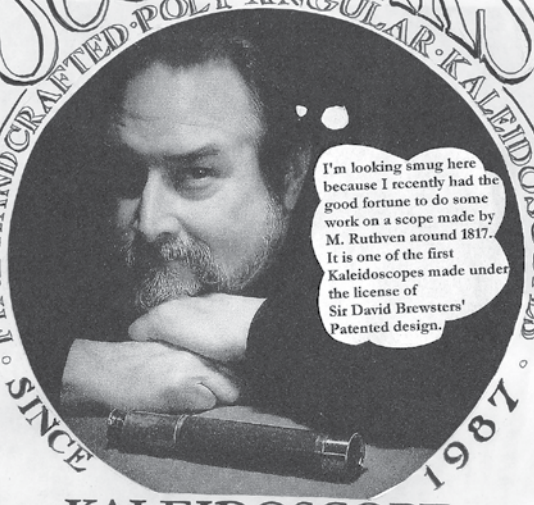

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The Wedding Kaleidoscope

submitted by David Kalish

This year *THE WEDDING KALEIDOSCOPE* turns 20!

It is ironic that this model has managed to survive longer than most modern marriages, and mine was no exception.

The concept came to me as the result of an all night argument that took place during the third year of marriage to my now former wife. I was struggling to communicate an idea to her, trying to find a way to demonstrate what I regard as a simple 'truth'. That "there is no truth beyond our individual perception of it". What each of us perceive as being either true or false is determined by how we each, subjectively, view our world.

I don't recall what triggered our fight that night. Over time I came to realize that the subject of debate was of no particular consequence. The point she would insist upon was that she was "right" (about whatever it was), and therefore, I was "wrong". That very assertion became the focus of the disagreement and we argued the point into the wee small hours. Finally exhaustion overcame us and we retired to bed frustrated, the matter unresolved.

When morning arrived I awoke with a picture in my head. During sleep my unconscious was busy trying to problem solve. My imagination had found a way to physically demonstrate the 'principal of diverse perspectives' I had been trying to communicate the night before. As this figment of my imagination took form, I realized it was a kaleidoscope. The object envisioned was an elongated solid rectangle with a clear object cell in the center. This scope could be viewed through either end by two people at the same time. Each viewer would perceive a different vision however, as each side of the scope would contain a different mirror system. A union of two kaleidoscopes blended into one! It seemed such a fitting metaphor. By the time I was fully conscious, I knew I had dreamt up something special. I made a quick sketch before the idea could vanish, and thus, "The Wedding Kaleidoscope" was conceived.

My father was an attorney. He would occasionally remind me that "There are three sides to every story: Your side, my side, and the truth". This is the philosophical message I've tried to communicate in the presentation of each "Wedding Kaleidoscope". The accompanying literature states that "The couple can

rejoice in the knowledge that their diverse perspectives will enhance their shared experience". I've long held that if people would embrace their differences instead of rejecting them, we'd live in a more tolerant, harmonious, and peaceful world

• • • FOR SALE • • •

Glenn & Ben Straub - SF Series 1991, #191/209
Knapp - Gizmo, 4 pt. mandala, exotic woods
Robert Cook & Jocelyn Teh - 2 mirror systems, metal/wheel
Tom Thresher - parlor, black & white corian/wheel, mult. mandalas
Ben Ansley - Magnascope, alabaster, moves with magnets
Rosenfeldt - various marblescopes from the 1990s
Roy Cohen-Gilad - flexible, flat, fabric wrapped, mirrors adjust to make polyangular images, painted acrylic wheels

email - kscopes4u@aol.com for prices and further info

Featured Collector : The Barndt's

In 1970, Joanne and Michael Barndt were finishing graduate school and took a trip to Europe. There they found a toy scope in Switzerland which also had a music box built into it. They liked kaleidoscopes but they didn't start off to be collectors. Years later, a newspaper article about High Tide, Rock Bottom sent them on a visit to meet Joe Polevoi. He told them about the first Strathmore exhibition and when the second Strathmore exhibit was announced, they were there.

Joanne and Michael had an opportunity to meet Stephen Gray at a time he was just beginning to experiment with kaleidoscopes. Stephen had not seen many contemporary kaleidoscopes at that time, so they brought scopes with them for him to see. The following summer he introduced the first of his very innovative scopes at a Louisville Brewster meeting.

They have been active members of the Brewster Kaleidoscope Society, missing only a few of the early conventions. Joanne and Michael enjoy the opportunity to get to meet and talk to artists about their work. It is part of their process in determining what scopes they ultimately choose to collect. Although they are willing to take this year off, they are excited about a convention in 2009.

Their collection is around 400 kaleidoscopes with 200 of those scopes being limited editions, one of a kind or early experimental pieces. They became serious collectors during the budding renaissance of kaleidoscopes and their collection spans 30 years. Michael has a background in sciences and looks at the optics and the variations in mirror configurations that have developed over the years as part of their decisions about pieces to buy. They have a wide range of wood and stained glass kaleidoscopes but the overall presentation of the exterior and image are more important than a particular medium.

Although they have many favorites, a few stand out for them. "*Reflection on Ice"* by Peggy and Steve Kittelson is at the top of their list. A scope that they commissioned Amy Hnatko to make for them, titled *"Autumn Reflections"* also makes their list. From this scope, Amy developed her limited edition, Northern Lights. At the Strathmore exhibit, they first saw Prism Design's *"The Gallery"* but were unable to afford it at that time. Years later they were able to acquire *"The Gallery"* and it remains another of their favorites.

They live in a hundred year old house with many bay windows and window seats throughout the house. On a sunny day, Michael says the house glistens with the scopes. It is a perfect environment for viewing scopes.

Joanne and Michael both say that they love to travel and of course while traveling, they are looking for scopes. Public gardens are part of their travel plans since Joanne likes to garden so it was not a surprise to learn that they have all of the Kittelson's flower scopes. One of Michael's passions is photography and he creates photographic montages.

In Memory of Michael Miron

Michael Miron, kaleidoscope artist, passed away February 3, 2008.
Michael began making kaleidoscopes in 1986 and founded The Kaleidoscope Works. Michael worked full time for Rice University as a video and film technician in the Department of Visual Arts. Michael's kaleidoscope production was slowed drastically after a disabling injury in October of 2001. In 2004, he was able to again begin to make limited numbers of kaleidoscopes. He was a multimedia artist who liked to use recycled computer parts both on the outside and in his object chamber. Michael was married to Nancy Erhlich.

If you would like to send your condolences to his family, his wife's address is:

Nancy Erhlich
115-11 Braewick Drive
Houston, TX 77035

A Better Doorstop 1999

Featured Artist : Marc Tickle

On a visit to the US to visit his parents in Asheville NC, Marc decided to take a stained glass class with Gary Newlin from A Touch of Glass. It would be a momentous decision. Some time later, Marc began to do some stained glass work for Gary at his shop. During this time, Gary and kaleidoscope collector, Ledell Murphy were working on a little book that was to become, Cheap Thrills.

This book contained twelve low cost kaleidoscope projects. Gary and Ledell asked Marc if he would follow the directions and make all the projects to proof their directions. They wanted someone who had no kaleidoscope experience to assemble all the projects. During a break from working on the book projects, Marc had an opportunity to look at Ledell's extensive kaleidoscope collection and he was hooked. Marc began making scopes the next day. That first week, he made twenty kaleidoscopes.

Marc returned to England soon after but he took his tools with him and some bamboo that he had been using to make his scopes. In England, stained glass was much more expensive than in the US. To try to keep his costs down, Marc began to experiment with reverse painting on glass. A technique he would continue to refine after his return to the states.

In 1992, Gary invited Marc to attend the Brewster Kaleidoscope Convention with him. Cheap Thrills was published and was going to be launched at the convention. Marc did not exhibit that year but did take a shoe box full of glass and bamboo scopes. He says the only person he showed them to was Dean Krause.

Marc was growing more and more intrigued with dimensional mirror systems and the mathematics used to create these systems. He spent months working on metric formulas. From all this work, came his well known scope, *Fibonacci*. Still seeking to learn more, Marc found a book on sacred geometry which helped him to develop his later mirror systems using curve ratios.

Through his experimentation, Marc discovered that an absence of mirror and negative space could gain him image. He limited his mirror systems to using only two mirrors, learning that what you cut away and how you cut it created what he would come to call his environments. A final touch would complete these environments, the additions of inclusions inside the mirror system that created a 3-dimensional image. Eco-Scope developed from this work.

Marc will be a part of a special North Carolina glass artists invitational show at the Blue Spiral 1 Gallery in Asheville NC during May and June. He will be showing a number of one of a kind kaleidoscopes he is developing for this show. If you are in the area, be sure to check out Marc's latest environments. The gallery website is www.bluespiral1.com for more information.

Also, Marc just completed a commissioned piece for Carrie Fisher, aka Princess Leia, of Star Wars fame.

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Marcia Clark, Kaleidoscope Artist

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Scoops on Scopes

Artist: **Joan Bazzel**
Scope Name: *Purple Passion*
One of a Kind
Mirror system: 2 mirror-5 point
Object case: vitreous enamelled copper tubing
External features: Sterling silver fabricated setting featuring a large clear faceted Amethyst and round Amethyst beads in a self-turning style kaleidoscope pendant.
Dimensions: 1.75" Wide x 2" High including bail, hung from a 24" handmade sterling woven chain. diameter of the tube is 1/2".

Artist: **Parman Brothers Ltd.**
designer Ubaldo Montoya
Scope Name: *The Wave*
Open Edition
Mirror system: 3 mirror system
Object case: The object case is filled with vivid beads and glass, Dry Scope
External features: This scope has maple and lyptus circular waves on the tube accented with a walnut head and eye piece
Dimensions: 7 1/2" long x 2 1/4" diameter
Suggested retail price: $102

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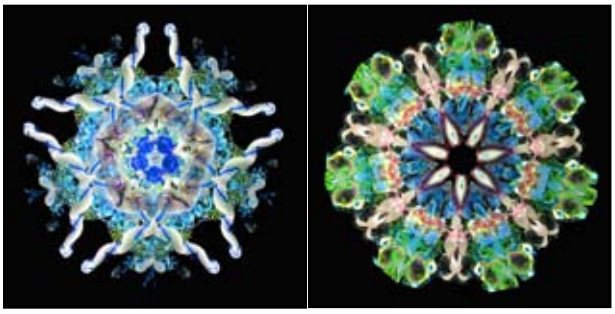
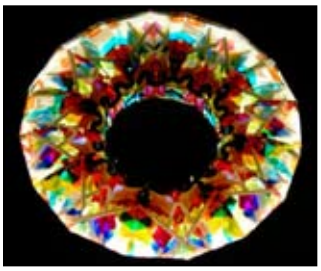
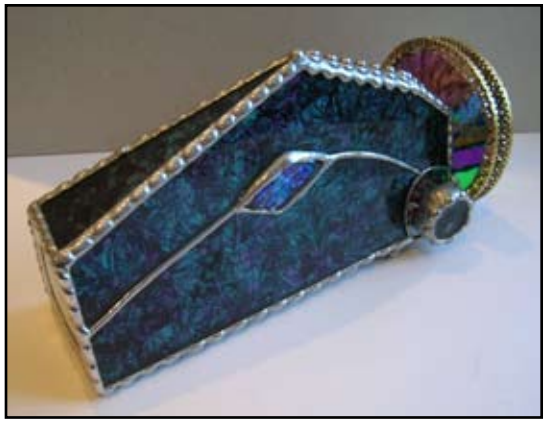
A color version of the newsletter is available for download at www.brewstersociety.com in the Members Only Section.



Artist: **Randy and Shelley Knapp**
Scope Name: *"08U-Seen It"*
Glimmer, Bubba, AnnAura, Shockalite
Signed Open Edition
Mirror system: two mirror system 5, 6, 7 point images
Object case: Hand lampworked glass fluid filled black background
External features: veneered wood barrel
Dimensions: 2 5/8" x 7"
Suggested retail price: $175.00



Artist: **Frank & Janet Higgins**
Scope Name: *'Torus'*
Limited Edition
Mirror system: Unconventional
Object case: Hand-rotated oil-filled cylinder
External features: Glass/pewter, free-standing
Dimensions: 7" x 3"
Image: Unusual 3-dimensional appearance, in the form of a torus against a dark background.
Video of image in motion at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PQpMVXJBdM
Suggested retail price in UK: £175

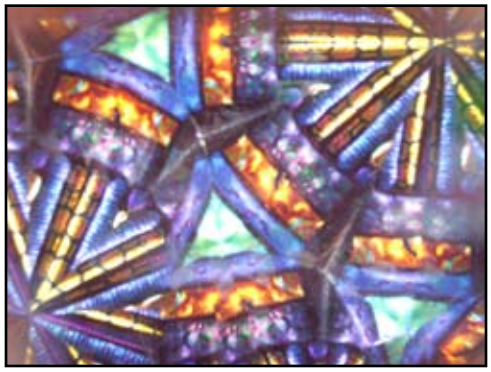


Artist: **Frank & Janet Higgins**
Scope Name: *'Carousel'*
Limited Edition
Mirror system: Unconventional
Object case: Twin Glass wheels plus hand-rotated oil-filled cylinder
External features: Glass/pewter, free-standing
Dimensions: 8" x 4"
Image: Unusual 3-dimensional appearance, in the form of a mandala with a central spike, surrounded by a torus, against a dark background. The mandala and torus move independently.
Video of image in motion at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLSFDWmsemQ
Suggested retail price in UK: £235

Artist: **Peggy & Steve Kittelson**
Scope Name: *Single Blooms*
Limited Edition of 25
Mirror system: Rose 7-point, Tulip 3-point, Morning Glory 5-point, Iris 4-sided 3-mirror
Object case: handmade glass flowers to match the exterior plus more of Peggy's great flame-worked glass
External features: A single flower dimensionally fused on the exterior
Dimensions: 9 1/2" x 2"

Artist: **Will Smith**
Scope Name: *'Wave Dance'* (A KaleidoWave Series)
Limited Edition of 600
Mirror system: 2 mirror
Object case: Elongated Acrylic Wave Chamber/Object Cell, 2" x 9"
External features: Hawaiian Koa Wood, 11" long
Displays on a Parlor Style Stand and can be removed as a Handheld
Suggested retail price: $550

More Scoops



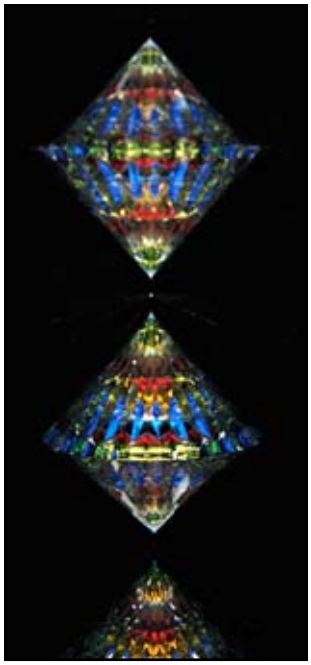
Artist: **Tom Baron**
Scope Name: *Tapestry*
Limited Edition of 50
Mirror system: dual front surface mirror systems, #1 100 x 55 x 25 degrees, #2 70 x 60 x 50 degrees.
Object case: black iridescent glass case with fused jewelry piece.
External features: Viewing object has 4 sided drum of fused dichroic on black.
Dimensions: case is 7" x 4.5" x 2". Total length with viewing object is 9".

Artist: **Marc Tickle**
Scope Name: *Secret Garden*
Open Edition
Mirror system: Two mirrors with inclusions
Object case: Liquid filled with additional liquid filled ampules
External features: Hand painted glass
Dimensions: 10" tall, 5" wide, 6" deep
Suggested retail price: $800

Artist: **Charles J Sorg**
Scope Name: *'BLUE BLIZZARD'*
One of a kind
Mirror system: Two mirror, eight sided mirror system
Object case: Dry cell: All glass with fused and slumped top. This one has a detachable blue nugget spire.
External features: Kaleidoscope body is slumped 3" diameter cylinder inset with blue nugget glass.
It has wings with much decorative soldering.
Dimensions: 15.5" Height x 13" Width x 3" Depth

Artist: **Wiley Jobe**
Scope Name: *TRIAD...SPECIAL EDITION*
Limited Edition: The small stash of over three hundred year old cherry wood used to make the tube will limit this Special Edition of Triad to 20 pieces or maybe less
Mirror system: 2-mirror (a slight detour from his usual Poly-angular offerings)
Object case: dry cell, delicate three-point images formed by flame-worked glass and tiny ampoules
External features: Feather light to pick up by the pedestal and use as a hand-held scope or can also be placed on its base and used as a parlour scope, hand turned solid brass knobs and engraved nameplate
Dimensions: 1 1/2" tapered to 2" D x 6" L x 10" H

Artist: **Jerry Farnsworth**
Scope Name: *GIANT MARBLE SET*
Mirror system: 2 mirror, 7 point scalloped image
Object case: 3 large, heavy 2" marbles and magnetic adjustable LED light
External features: Oak, walnut, maple, cherry and bubinga
Suggested retail price: $178.00



Artist: **Bob and Grace Ade**
Scope Name: *"Sequence"*
Open Edition
Mirror system: 3 dimensional image of a crystal cascading downward in a vertical "sequence"
Object case: A rotating dry cell contains flameworked glass, beads and dichroic pieces
External features: Case, pedestal and base is art glass
Dimensions: 8" high x 9" long and 5" wide
Suggested retail price: under $1,000

Featured Gallery
Kaleidoscope Mukashi-Kan

Since the challenging and electrifying debut of Kaleidoscope Mukashi-Kan as a kaleidoscope specialty shop in Japan, 14 years have passed. Other than taking a breather on New Year's Day, through all these years, our shop has been open every single day welcoming people into the world of kaleidoscopes.

The harmonious atmosphere of our shop is created from kaleidoscopes showcased in furnishings that used to adorn our home. Furniture purchased from antique shops in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, an elegant dining table with legs styled like cat's paws, Gallè vases always filled with fresh flowers. In deep melodious chimes, a grandfather clock crafted by a musical instrument maker marks the passing of time in the mystical space of kaleidoscope specialty shop Mukashi-Kan. Inside a cabinet by the wall, the kaleidoscopes made in the past carve out epochs in the history of American kaleidoscopes. Within our shop is a dazzling world filled with poignant shapes and colors of the kaleidoscopes of today.

It is the work of the artists that forms this space and happiness, makes people come back day after day and turns them into collectors, whose love and enthusiasm enable Kaleidoscope Mukashi-Kan to sparkle at all times. This is the purpose of our shop: to be a gathering place of the hearts for each and every one.

Kaleidoscope Mukashi-Kan
2-13-8 Azabujuban Minato-ku
Tokyo 106-0045 Japan
mukashikan@brewster.co.jp

Guild Meeting in New England

submitted by Brenda Hedden

On January 20th, the International Glass Guild Association's New England Chapter met at my house for our monthly meeting. My presentation was entitled: "A Brief History of the Kaleidoscope from Victorian Toy to Modern Work of Art". Along with the history lesson, I showed a reproduction of a Charles Bush wooden table scope by the Van Cort's as the "Victorian toy" example, and one of Skeeter's creative scopes as the "modern work of art" example. As a teacher, I thoroughly enjoy teaching something new to someone. It's so much fun for me to see the expression, wonderment and joy on their faces, whether a child or an adult!

Our guest speaker was Donna Lubin, an avid kaleidoscope collector and art teacher in our school district, who brought her scope collection to the meeting. The members of the IGGA have either their own studios and/or websites and work professionally with all kinds of glass from jewelry to residential and commercial installments. Over the years, a few members have made personal kaleidoscopes with me. They were absolutely fascinated by the designs and images of our collection, as well as the history of Sir David Brewster, Charles Bush, various kaleidoscope artists, and the Brewster Society. To learn that there was a "society" of kaleidoscope makers and collectors was a surprise to them! I had on display all of Cozy's books and every edition of the Brewster Society's Newsletters. I sent BKS a membership for Donna Lubin, as a thank you for bringing her large collection out on a miserably winter day! She was thrilled to receive her first edition last week.

Kaleidoscope Entertainment

Will Smith has been leading a 'double-life'! Besides making his art KaleidoWave kaleidoscopes, Will and Cheryl Smith, created Captain KaleidoScope in 2001. Captain KaleidoScope is a 1,000 sq.ft. interactive exhibit of gigantic size kaleidoscopes. The Captain Exhibit tours schools, science expos, state and county fairs throughout the United States. The Smith's were surprised from the start at the overwhelming number of kaleidoscope enthusiasts that are still unaware of our Brewster world and the kaleidoscope community.

They consistently receive requests at these venus for a smaller version of their Captain KaleidoScope exhibit, so Will and Cheryl went to work creating a kaleidoscope exhibit that would 'fill this niche'. Two years of designing and creating.... the exhibit is completed. They are now introducing "Kaleido-Tainment"! Kaleido-Tainment exhibit is an interactive kaleidoscope exhibit that boasts oversize kaleidoscopes, is easily transported in the 'family' vehicle, is easy to set-up and operate for one person, provides unique entertainment and learning experiences, is sturdy and durable enough to withstand 'kids' of all ages. As part of the Kaleido-Tainment experience, the Smith's have developed novel ways to demonstrate kaleidoscope making and sharing the history of kaleidoscopes.

Going into the seventh year with their interactive kaleidoscope exhibits, the Smith's exhibits have become the featured event at many venues and the popularity has grown such that they have decided to franchise this opportunity. Will and Cheryl have licensed this successful "turn-key" business called Kaleido-Tainment. They have designed literature to effectively communicate this unique entertainment concept to potential clients and have been busy marketing their franchise opportunity.

If you love kaleidoscopes and want to enjoy sharing kaleidoscopes with the WORLD...while making a good income doing it, contact Will and Cheryl Smith for more information about becoming a franchisee....
call; 800.687.6670
or email; kaleidotainment@comcast.net
Check-out the website; www.kaleido-tainment.com

STUFF: by Sherry Moser

Object Cell Basics For The Beginning Artist

Condensed from the book,

Simple Kaleidoscopes by Gary Newlin

The dictionary gives some of the definitions of stuff as (1) constituent elements or basic nature, essence (2) things grouped together or viewed in a certain way (3) to fill the inside of something (4) to pack, cram, or crowd something into a container.

The object chamber contains the most important components of the kaleidoscope besides the mirror system. The stuff that is chosen for the object chamber determines the unique image that is created. Lets consider some of the elements that influence to look of your image. The most important factor is your own imagination and creativity. There are endless possibilities so be open. Let's talk about stuff.

The size of your pieces play an important part. Balance is the key. Do not over fill your cell because pieces will not have enough room to rotate freely. When the cell is to full, the image will not change as dramatically because the pieces can not tumble and allow other pieces to pass the mirror. Larger pieces give more color and a bolder look but not as complex an image. Smaller pieces mean that it will take more pieces to fill the object chamber. Very small pieces create a delicate and lacy look. Use a combination of large and small pieces to help fill a large viewing area. Not having enough pieces in the cell allows to much open space in the mirror so the image is not full. A general rule of thumb is to fill the cell at least half to two-thirds full. Temporarily seal the cell so it can be turned and rotated while looking at the image to determine if pieces need to be taken out or added.

Wonderful natural things that people find intriguing to put in object cells are shells, rocks, and minerals. The problem with these kinds of items is that a majority of them are opaque with no light coming thru. Pieces, no matter what they are made of should be translucent in nature unless they are in a black background cell. Things that are opaque look dark and to many dark items will make the overall look be dark. Just try to balance the cell with many different kinds of things.

Colors have a very profound effect on all of us. Color plays a significant role in our everyday lives. There are many books available about color and color theory. However to start, pick the colors that are personally pleasing but do not be afraid to experiment. I have looked at many scopes where artists used color combinations that I personally would not have picked but created the most wonderful image. All the pieces do not have to be the same kind.

Lampworking is a technique for working with glass that allows glass to be heated over a flame and as the glass becomes soft and molten, it is twisted and shaped to add texture and shape to the glass. Many of the current contemporary kaleidoscope artists are using lampworking techniques to create their very special look. Each artist develops a style of working with the glass that becomes a sort of signature and is recognized by collectors who value their work.

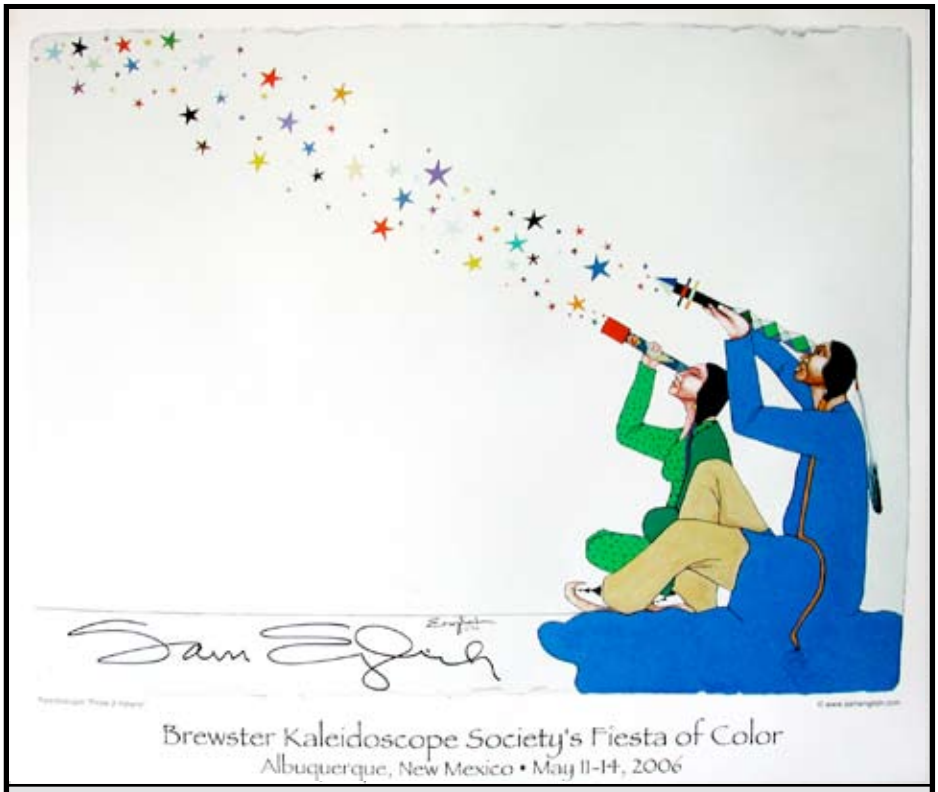
Stained glass techniques of foiling glass pieces and soldering them together to create wheels that rotate on a spindle can be used instead of an object chamber. Usually, two wheels are applied and rotate independently of each other to show crossing colors and patterns. Pressed flowers or flower petals sealed between glass also offer beautiful colors and texture to the image. Flower petals have a tendency to fade over a period of time so should be protected if possible from sitting in bright sunlight. Wheels are a good place to use agates and semiprecious stones.

The light source is most important as it illuminates the chamber and the pieces for viewing. Natural sunlight is the best source to give the truest colors. However sunlight is not always available and some artists build into their kaleidoscopes hidden light sources utilizing flashlights to pinpoint light into the object chamber.

The depth of the cell is important and is related to the width of the kaleidoscope body. You do not want to see the sides of the object chamber in the mirrors. If that happens, then your cell is to deep for the width of the chamber. Also if the chamber is to deep, more pieces will be needed to fill the chamber.

Although there are some artists who continue to create scopes with fabulous dry cells, the majority of artists create liquid cells. Pieces float in a heavy liquid that gives ongoing movement to the image even when the cell is not being rotated. Oils used are mineral oil and glycerin which are available at any drug store. Many artists have moved away from using glycerin and now only use silicone oil which is not water soluble like glycerin. The trick in making a liquid cell is that it must be totally and completely sealed to prevent leaking. Not an easy task. If you are a beginning scope maker, I would recommend sticking with the dry cell concept for now or wheels.

One final definition from the dictionary on stuff (5) to fill with information, ideas, etc.[to stuff one's head with facts].



Kaleidoscopin' Those 2 Indians
Special Poster by **Sam English** designed exclusively for the Brewster Kaleidoscope Society's 18th Annual Convention in Albuquerque NM.
22 1/2" x 19 1/2"
Signed by the artist (limited number available) ... $60
Unsigned ... $50

Reflections
KALEIDOSCOPES
ANNOUNCES
A KALEIDOSCOPE INVITATIONAL SHOW
'KALEIDOSCOPES INCARNATE'
Celebrating Skip's Return to Retail
A show representing 'Kaleidoscopes Revisited / Back to Basics'
Best of Show and Honorable Mention Awards
APRIL 11 – MAY 9, 2008
CONTACT SKIP FOR MORE INFO
BOX 1103 ♦ MENDOCINO, CA 95460
(707) 937-0173 ♦ INFO@REFLECTIONS-KALEIDOSCOPES.COM

... NOTICE ...
The 8th Annual Kaleidoscope Festival in Historic Stowe, Vermont scheduled for July 11 - 13, 2008 has been postponed until 2009. Visit www.stowecraft.com for more updates.

Commemorative Pins

• Original Brewster Society Pin ... $12
• New BKS Logo Pin ... $10

Convention Pins
• 2004 Portland OR ... $7
• 2005 Nashville TN ... $7
• 2006 Albuquerque NM ... $7
• 2007 Charleston SC ... $7

All 6 pins for $40

BKS Logo Hat
Black w/multicolored embroidery
One size fits all ... $15

If you would like to order any of these items, please send a check to :
Brewster Kaleidoscope Society
PO Box 95
Damascus MD 20872

For orders of $50 or more, add $8 for shipping
Under $50, shipping is included.
MD residents add 6% sales tax

International orders only:
Include $15 shipping for all orders.
MasterCard and VISA accepted

Email orders to:
admin@brewstersociety.com

2008 Schedule of Events

April 11 - May 9 : " Kaleidoscope Incarnate / Kaleidoscopes Revisited – Back to Basics" invitational show at Reflections Kaleidoscopes in Mendocino, California. People's choice, Best of Show and Honorable Mention. Email Skip at info@reflections-kaleidoscopes.com or call 707-937-0173 for details

May 2 - 4 : Janice Chesnik and Sheryl Koch, All About the Mirrors
This class is designed to develop an eye for the inside actions of a kaleidoscope and how images are manipulated. Learn how to cut, make different mirrored images, and gain tips and tricks of taping mirrors together. Experiment and try new configurations to see what results. Take home a snazzy teleidoscope in which mirrors create multiple reflections of objects outside the scope. All levels welcome.
John C. Campbell Folk School, One Folk School Road Brasstown, NC 28902
1-800-FOLK-SCH (365-5724); 828-837-2775

May 1 - June 28 : Marc Tickle will feature several one of a kind pieces at Blue Spiral 1 Gallery as part of the North Carolina Glass Artists Exhibit in Asheville NC. More information can be found at www.bluespiral1.com

August 3 - September 7 : Al Teich will have an individual show of his kaleidoscope photos at Penn Place in Garrett Park, Maryland. 4600 Waverly Avenue, Garrett Park, MD. 301-946-7556.

September 5 - 7 : Arts Afire Glass Gallery ... 11th Annual Kaleidoscope Show
1117 King Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314, 703-838-9785 www.artsafire.com, artafire@bellatlantic.net

Date to be announced : Nellie Bly ... Annual Halloween Weekend Event; 136 Main Street, Jerome, AZ 86331, 928-634-0255 www.nbscopes.com, mail@nbscopes.com

November 14 - December 7 (date to be confirmed) : **Eclectic Galleries ... 6th Annual Kaleidoscope Show**
2405 3rd Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, 904-247-3750
www.eclecticgalleries.com, info@eclecticgalleries.com

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